

Basic Books, and in the mid-1960's, Kristol co-founded *The Public Interest*, a domestic policy journal that cast wide influence among policy-makers.

Kristol also served as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, senior fellow emeritus of the American Enterprise Institute, and a member of the board of contributors for the *Wall Street Journal* in addition to the many books he authored. To honor this distinguished career, President George W. Bush awarded him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2002.

Irving Kristol was a thought leader and his forward-thinking ideas shaped policies and helped cement the Republican Party's position as the "party of ideas."

A soldier during World War II, Kristol once wrote that "my army experience permitted me to make an important political discovery. . . . The idea of building socialism with the common man who actually existed—as distinct from his idealized version—was sheer fantasy, and therefore the prospects for 'democratic socialism' were nil."

These beliefs helped shape the policies of President Ronald Reagan's administration in defeating communism.

Our former colleague, Speaker Newt Gingrich recently said that it was Irving Kristol's insights that helped create the solutions-oriented Republicanism that led to the Contract with America.

Irving Kristol was a cheerful conservative, rejuvenating and shaping American politics, often with a smile.

The list of those who will mourn his loss is long and distinguished as he touched many lives, but I take comfort in knowing that both the Kristol name and legacy will live on.

I offer my most sincere condolences to his wife Gertrude, and children, Elizabeth and Bill.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition to H.R. 3548, the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act. While I have supported unemployment extensions in time of economic emergency, and will continue to do so, I will not give my support to this particular legislation because it unfairly taxes states with strong economies to pay for workers in states that have engaged in poor economic planning.

As you know, the bill would extend unemployment benefits for an additional 13 weeks in states where the average unemployment rate is over 8.5 percent. To pay for this extension, the legislation extends the 0.2 percent Federal Unemployment surtax for one more year. This is a tax that all employers are required to pay regardless of the state unemployment rate. In other words, citizens in states with low unemployment will be paying for benefits in states that have been fiscally irresponsible or have mishandled their own unemployment fund.

Currently, Madam Speaker, there are 27 states with an unemployment rate of over 8.5 percent. But many states have engaged in commonsense approaches to economic devel-

opment to avoid this catastrophe. In my home state of Oklahoma, for example, our unemployment rate, though rising, is still only at 6.8 percent. As many of you know, Oklahoma suffered a major economic downturn in the 1980s due to the oil bust. However, during the late 1980s and early 1990s, the state of Oklahoma and business community learned from this experience and made great strides in economic diversification. In the years following, housing prices in Oklahoma remained stable and infrastructure grew. Today, Oklahoma's energy, agricultural and entertainment industries are strong and help to support a robust, diversified economy.

At the same time, the state of Oklahoma has worked hard to ensure that its unemployment fund remains solvent. Though many states' unemployment funds were not prepared for a major recession, Oklahoma is one of the only states that will not have to borrow from the federal fund to repay benefits to unemployed workers. In fact, Madam Speaker, the state is not raising the unemployment payments next year. It is entirely inappropriate to force the citizens of states like this to pay a tax in order to pay for the irresponsibility of others. Oklahoma already pays more in unemployment taxes than they receive back from the system, and this extension only makes the situation worse.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I again would like to emphasize that I am not opposed to ensuring that Americans have means to support themselves in economic hardship. However, I do believe that it is unwarranted to tax the citizens of the 23 other states who have produced good economic growth and responsible governance.